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Russian Federation Statement on International Convention for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearances

Mr. Chairman,

It is difficult to overvalue the importance of this problem covered by the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances. It is even more obvious when we learn about similar crimes, including hostage taking or other terrorist acts, taking place literally every day. The latest sad case is the kidnapping and then cold-blooded murder of four workers of the Russian Federation Embassy in Iraq. We consider that kidnapping is a gross violation of human rights and is a direct violation of all forms of individual protection and cannot be justified under any circumstances. In this regard, the Russian Federation is convinced that the Human Rights Council should pay attention to the struggle against hostage taking with same degree of attention given to it by the former Commission on Human Rights. We consider that the Council, like the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, should confirm that every person has an inalienable right to protection from terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

The Russian Federation expresses gratitude to France for its efforts and contributions in the development of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances. We are convinced that the adoption of this document will encourage the strengthening of an international regime for the protection of human rights and freedoms, the eradication of similar crimes, and also will contribute to the global effort in the struggle against terrorism.

We express special satisfaction with the inclusion of the Convention's articles contributing to the further progressive development of the concept of human rights. In particular, it is especially important to us that articles of the [Convention] include the possibility of assigning responsibility for the violation of this right – the right to protection from enforced disappearances – to the so-called "non-State actors." As is known, a significant part of enforced or involuntary disappearances, including kidnappings, are committed by terrorists or terrorist groups, illegal armed formations, and others. In this connection, the Russian Federation welcomes the development of new rights-defending standards that take into account contemporary realities of today's world. It is hoped that adoption of this important document will encourage a change in position of those who, up to this point, maintain that human rights can only be broken exclusively by official states or their official representatives and reject the possibility of assigning appropriate responsibility to non-State actors.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.